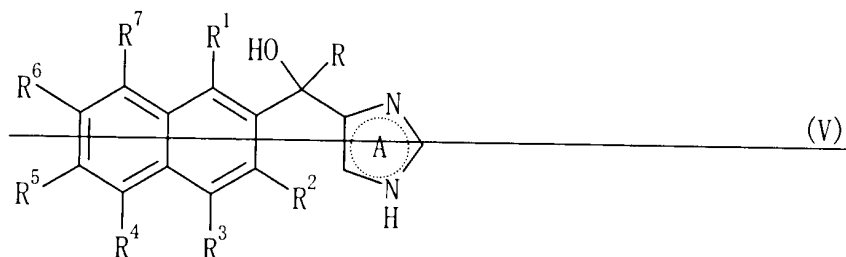


## Abstract

The present invention provides an industrially advantageous production method of compound (V) having a steroid C<sub>17,20</sub>-lyase inhibitory action, which affords this compound in a high yield with a less number of steps without using a heavy metal compound:

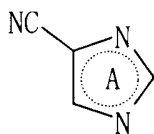


wherein ring A is an optionally substituted imidazole ring, R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, OH, SH or NH<sub>2</sub>, an acyl group or a halogen and the like.

A method for producing a compound of the formula:



wherein R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and ring A is an imidazole ring which is optionally substituted further, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



(I)

---

wherein ring A is as defined above, or a salt thereof, and a compound of the formula:



(II)

---

wherein M<sup>1</sup> is an alkali metal atom or a group of the formula:  
-Mg-Y<sup>1</sup> where Y<sup>1</sup> is a halogen atom, and R is as defined above, or  
a salt thereof, and bringing the resulting product into contact  
with an acid.